

TAFT AND TARIFF BOARD ATTACK WOOL SCHEDULE

Long-expected Message Sent to Congress.

PRESENT RATES UNFAIR

Change in Methods Also Is Recommended.

Pointing Out that Tariff Board Has Made Most Exhaustive Investigation Possible of Rates and Comparative Cost of Production, Mr. Taft Asks that Congress Institute Remedial Legislation at Once.

President Taft's long-awaited message on the wool schedule of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law, together with the tariff board's report on this subject, was sent to Congress yesterday. The findings of the tariff board amply justify President Taft's characterization of the present wool schedule as "unfair."

The President declares in his message that the report of the board showed ample reason for the revision downward of Schedule K, in accord with the protective principle, and he accordingly recommends that such revision be proceeded with at once.

PRESENT RATES UNFAIR.

The report of the tariff board holds that practically all items in the woolen schedule of the Payne-Aldrich law are taxed at a rate of duty higher than that which represents the difference of the cost of production here and abroad. This is true of raw wool as well as of manufactures of wool. There are only four items in the Payne-Aldrich woolen schedule the duties on which permit their importation into this country. These are raw wool, men's wearing apparel, very fine quality, light-weight dress goods for women, and Oriental rugs. Not only this, but the tariff board finds that the method of assessing duties under the present tariff law is faulty in the extreme and operates to exclude importations of certain classes of foreign wools which might be used to displace substitutes now used in this country.

The tariff board itself makes no recommendation as to the rates of duty that should be levied on raw wool or

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THROWS HOME OPEN.



MRS. W. A. CLARK.

Wife of former United States Senator Clark, of Montana, who was the hostess to a number of guests who came to view the mansion that her husband had built for her in Fifth avenue, New York. The views gathered at the magnificent view of art gathered from all over the world.

any of its manufactured products. It has no authority to make such recommendations, and merely presents its findings. The President, also does not attempt to name definite rates. It is possible, however, to deduce from the tariff board's report what rates it regards as warranted on the showing of the difference of cost in manufacturing between this and other countries, the professed Republican principle being that the rate of duty should not exceed this differential.

A 31-2 Cent Excess.

The board finds that the average cost of producing raw wool in this country is 31-2 cents a pound. The average cost of production in Australia, the chief competitor of the United States, does not exceed 2 cents a pound. The difference, 11-2 cents a pound—is the rate which should apply to raw wool if this general average of 31-2 cents is accepted. The rate under the present Payne-Aldrich law for raw material is 11 cents a pound, the findings of the tariff board thus indicating an excess in the charge of 11-2 cents a pound.

Based on last year's importations, it is estimated that this rate of 11-2 cents a pound on raw wool would be equivalent to an ad valorem rate of less than 35 per cent. This was the ad valorem rate that Senator La Follette fixed in his wool bill last summer, as compared with a rate of about 44 per cent assessed by the Payne-Aldrich law. The rate fixed by the Democrats of the House in the original Underwood bill was 30 per cent on raw wool, the final compromise between La Follette and Underwood being 28 per cent.

The tariff board findings have thus indicated the substantial correctness of the rate fixed by La Follette on raw wool. There are about one-third less in the Payne-Aldrich rates on raw wool, and also, if estimated roughly, on manufactured products.

Asks Change in Method.

The President, acting on the findings of the tariff board, recommends a radical change in the method of assessing duties on raw wool. Instead of the present specific duty on the wool in gross, he recommends that the product be assessed in terms of its secured contents. This will obviate the chief evil of the present system—the discrimination due to different shrinkages. In the case of the manufactures of wool, he recommends graduated ad valorem duties.

The findings of the report indicate that the tariff does not enter so largely as is generally supposed into the high prices of woolen manufactures. It seems, in fact, that wool manufacturers in this country have to a certain extent already specified the duties on wool in gross. For instance, the report shows that sixteen English fabrics prohibited from the United States on account of high duties would have paid a nominal duty of 133 per cent if imported. Practically identical fabrics of domestic make, on the other hand, were sold at the same time at a price only 67 per cent higher than the foreign market value. In other words, while the American manufacturers had 133 per cent in their favor, competition has reduced the actual rate to 67 per cent.

From Sheep to Man.

The tariff board, in its voluminous report, followed the wool in an ordinary ready-made suit of clothes, retailing at \$22 from the back of the sheep to the back of the man. It shows that the farmer gets \$23 from the \$23 paid for the suit, or a profit of 68 cents; the manufacturer of the cloth gets \$134 and a profit of 23 cents, and the wholesaler makes the suit worth \$150, making a profit of \$15. The profit of the retailer, however, is gross, not net. The most interesting feature about the statistics is that the manufacturer of the cloth gets only about a 5 per cent profit, very much less than the farmer who raises the wool.

The tariff board characterizes the report of the tariff board on the woolen schedule as the most complete and exhaustive ever presented to a legislative body on this subject.

The tariff board, in its report, shows, besides the facts presented above, that in the Ohio region it costs more than in any other part of the United States to raise wool; the average charge for production being 19 cents a pound. In Western United States the capitalization per head of sheep, exclusive of land, is \$5.30, upon which a gross profit of 62 per cent was realized. In Australia, on the other hand, at the present range of values for stock, sheep, and mutton, the receipts from other sources than wool are carrying the total flock expense, thus making the wool cost practically nothing.

The board in criticizing the methods now used in assessing duties on raw wool, holds that there is no valid reason for the discrimination that now exists between the wools of class 1 (merino and cross-bred) and class 2 (English, medium, and lustre), and that these two classes could properly be consolidated.

Tariff Board's Findings.

The report adds as its findings:

"That the present duty of 31 cents per pound on scoured wool is prohibitive, preventing effectually the importation of clean, low-priced foreign wools of the lower grades that would be exceedingly useful in the manufacture of woolsens in this country, and if so used might displace in large measure the cheap substitutes now so frequently employed in that industry. The fact that such cheap wools are of such heavy shrinkage that they cannot be imported in an unscoured

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state emphasizes all the more the prohibitive character of the present scoured pound duty.

"That an ad valorem rate is open to grave difficulties from the point of view of administration and revenue. In the case of a crude bulky commodity like wool produced in many remote regions and finding its way into the markets through so many various channels of trade.

"That, furthermore, an ad valorem rate would give a high duty per pound when prices are high; that is, when the consumer most needs relief and the producer is most able to bear comparison. With a low price of wool, the duty per pound would be low; that is, at the time when the consumer has less need of competing wools and the producer is least able to bear comparison.

"That the chief objections to the present rate on the grease pound could be met by levying some form of specific duty based on the clean or scoured content of wool.

"That the necessary machinery for testing at ports of entry could be installed promptly and cheaply, and could be maintained efficiently at small expense."

CONGRESS IN BRIEF.

Wednesday, December 20, 1911.

The Senate.

The Senate received the President's message accompanied by the report of the tariff board on Schedule K, in the tariff act. Both were referred to the Finance Committee.

Vice President Sherman signed the Russian treaty resolution.

Among the bills taken up from the calendar and passed were the following:

To commission graduates of the Naval Academy to ensigns, the purpose of the American Academy at Rome; to provide for the erection of a monument to Maj. Gen. John C. Brown, of Revolutionary War fame, at Manchester, N. H.; also appropriating \$10,000 for the erection of a monument to the late President James A. Garfield, at Long Branch, N. J.

The Senate adjourned at 4:15 o'clock, until noon Thursday.

The House.

After receiving the President's message regarding the revision of the woolen schedule, the House proceeded immediately to adoption of the substitute Senate resolution for the abrogation of the treaty with Russia. After a short debate the Senate substitute was unanimously adopted on a viva voce vote.

Representative Malby, of New York, spoke against the resolution, declaring that it would not accomplish the results wanted, namely the admission of American Jews into Russia, but he did not vote in the negative on the final passage.

The Senate resolution adopted a milder substitute for the Senate resolution passed by the House and it ratifies the action of the President in serving notice upon Russia. Representative Sulzer himself moved the adoption of the Senate substitute, stating that the House Foreign Affairs Committee was not jealous of the form of the resolution.

The result was what we are after," said Sulzer, "and I hope the resolution will be unanimously passed showing that we are all above partisanship."

A wrangle over the duty on the tariff board, which was sent to the House in seven large packages. The Democrats wanted the figures to be sent to the Ways and Means Committee for sorting, declaring that the record would cover a thousand pages if all the detailed data were printed. Republican members want to send the figures to the printing office immediately. The matter went over until Thursday.

Representative Fitzgerald asked unanimous consent to send the urgent deficiency bill to the Senate. Representative Austin, of Tennessee, objected, and this bill also will be taken up Thursday.

Mr. Austin objected because a separate bill was introduced on an amendment put in by the Senate appropriating \$50,000 for the relief of the sufferers in the Briceville (Tenn.) mine disaster.

The House spent considerable time on routine bills. Among the number which passed was one authorizing the sale of dead timber from public lands.

The House also considered and continued its consideration of the army appropriation bills, but the other House committees took a "day off."

Big Order Authorized.

The Joint Committee on Printing yesterday authorized the Public Printer to open bids for the purchase of 25,000,000 pounds of paper, to supply the big shop during the coming winter. The joint committee is composed of Senators Smoot, Flaxey, and Fletcher, and Representatives Finley, Barnhart, and Forcht. This order is a record-breaker at the printers.

GET WHOLESALE IMMUNITY.

Vote Sellers Can Take Advantage of Generous Offer.

Special in The Washington Herald.

Bristol, Tenn., Dec. 20.—Judge Skeen, who is conducting the grand jury investigation into the wholesale delinquency of the electorate of Lee County, Va., today announced a change of tactics and issued a proclamation to the vote sellers of Lee County offering inducements for them to come into court voluntarily and confess. He stated that he will give as many as desire the privilege of accepting his offer. When the grand jury convenes all who have not confessed will be indicted, and Judge Skeen intimated that it will go hard with them.

One hundred and fifty indictments of vote sellers were today turned over to Commonwealth's Attorney Ely, and others will be given him tomorrow before the grand jury adjourns.

Judge Skeen now hopes that several hundred who have not been indicted will take advantage of his offer. He promised the minimum fine for all who confessed, but as the Virginia election statute is self-executing the act of confession or conviction perpetually disfranchises them as guilty persons. He developed today that Judge Skeen secured the evidence for many of the indictments from the vote buyers by giving them immunity.

Juvenile smoking has greatly increased lately, and its effect will be most noticeable on the next generation.

WOOL MEASURE IS WELL RECEIVED

Continued from Page One.

Of course, there is no doubt that the report will be ordered printed by the Ways and Means Committee, but it was merely a reminder to President Taft that they are not unmindful of accepting his tariff board's findings, and intend to act independently.

Statement by Underwood.

Here is the comment made by Leader Underwood on the Taft message and the tariff board's report:

"The President in his message favors the placing of a specific duty on scoured wool instead of a specific duty, and it will not be necessary for us, therefore, to go into the question that the President recommends in reference to the duty on scoured wool.

"The facts contained in the report of the tariff board, I have not had a chance to examine them. It will be necessary to have them printed and considered with care, and I am sure that the committee now has in its possession before a conclusion can be reached as to what rates should be incorporated in the bill that will be presented to the House."

Warren for Supervision.

A statement by Senator Warren, Republican, of Wyoming, indicates that there will be no opposition from the growers of the country. Senator Warren is himself a standstill and one of the largest wool growers in the United States. He said:

"It is understood that the President, although not a wool grower, inclines in his message as the wool growers had hoped he might be, expects, and would probably favor, upon the showing made by the tariff board, legislation providing for a duty of at least 20 cents a pound on a scoured basis for first and second class wools, with close government supervision, and the sampling and testing of every package of wool imported, to determine the shrinkage, this test to be made by government employees in government establishments.

This supervision, with the elimination of the shrinkage clause under which foreign growers have benefited at our expense, would be an improvement, in that respect, upon present methods. Although a rate of 20 cents a pound on the scoured basis is a reduction of about 20 per cent, yet, considering that American wool has an average shrinkage of 66 per cent, and that foreign wool, such as is being imported, has an average shrinkage of but 50 per cent, the 11 cents a pound duty on raw wool has really not given us a protective rate of over 23 to 25 cents a pound on the scoured basis.

The Senate adjourned at 4:15 o'clock, if a duty of say 20 cents a pound would be imposed, would be about 2 to 5 cents a pound on the scoured product."

Facts Are Significant.

Even John Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, one of the very high priests of protection in the House, had a kind word to say in regard to the President's downward revision of the tariff on wool.

The President's statement that, taking all varieties of wool into account, the average cost of production of wool in America is higher than it is abroad is significant, as it applies to raw wool as well as to manufactures. As to manufactures, the report of the tariff board appears to show that the actual manufacturing cost and labor are higher in this country than abroad. This goes to show that the figures of the tariff board ought to be given careful consideration in any law that may be enacted, so as to protect American and American wool.

The production of one and the manufacture of the other."

"The great speech in the Senate of the late Senator Dilliver, in his fight against the tariff board, was a masterpiece, and is vindicated by this tariff board report and the recommendations of the President," said Senator Bristow. "Judged by what the President says, there will be no objection to the tariff board's report, and the tariff board's report is a masterpiece of the progressives at last. I favor a reduction of these duties, but I am now, as I always have been, a Republican who believes in the doctrine of fair and reasonable protection."

Will Shape New Schedule.

Senator Penrose, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, declared that so far as he was concerned it would be the purpose of the Finance Committee to construct a bill in accordance with recommendations of the President.

The committee will, however, be informed before the holidays, but when the bill has passed the House, the Senate committee will give to that attention the importance of the subject to make material cuts in this schedule. I have not seen the report of the board, and depend entirely on what the President has said, which has been very clear, that he seems to be coming to the tariff position of the progressives at last. I favor a reduction of these duties, but I am now, as I always have been, a Republican who believes in the doctrine of fair and reasonable protection."

ACID TEST FOR SENATOR.

La Follette Will Face Suffragettes in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburg, Dec. 20.—The Western governors ran the gamut of suffragettes here with good grace, but Senator Robert M. La Follette to-morrow must undergo the acid test alone. Leaving women of Pittsburgh are primed for the progressive hope when he arrives here to-morrow for his lecture on "The true Democracy." Senator La Follette will be the guest of ex-Senator William Flynn while here, and the suffragette reception will be in the hands of Miss May Flynn, Miss Florence Harper, Miss Alice McCague, Miss May Bakewell, Miss Margaret Poole, and Miss Mary E. "Pinned down" the Western governors last week.

Phone Service Increased.

New York, Dec. 20.—Miner M. Davis, who was recently appointed superintendent of telephones of the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company, announced today that his company had issued instructions to its construction department to proceed with the erection of additional heavy copper wires between all important points on the system of the company for the purpose of extending the telephone use of the same to the independent telephone companies.

Junior Marksmen Hold Match.

A rifle match for junior marksmen butlers for 1911 was held at the Business High School range, Tuesday afternoon. Those qualifying were Lieut. Thomas W. Miller, quartermaster of Third Battalion, who made 41 standing and 44 prone, and W. Davis, of Company F, who made 39 standing and 43 prone.

GORGEOUS CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

The House That Built Virginia, 9, F, G TO-DAY.

LODGE RESOLUTION PASSED BY HOUSE

Continued from Page One.

considered as an insult by the Russian government."

Mr. Sulzer paused a moment or two before replying.

"I will say just this," he replied to Mr. Harrison, "that the information on that point did not come from the State Department."

Sulzer's Speech Temperate.

Chairman Sulzer, in urging the passage of the Senate resolution, made what is considered by his colleagues to have been an exceedingly temperate speech. He has contended all along that there was nothing in his resolution which the Russian government properly could take exception. At the same time, he has said that if Russia was annoyed as a result of the phraseology, which declared that the Russian government had "violated" the treaty, he was perfectly willing to have the language amended as desired by the conservative element in the Senate and House, so long as the end at which he aimed was accomplished.

"I have no pride of authorship resting in this document," said Mr. Sulzer, in urging favorable consideration of the Senate resolution in the House, "and I am perfectly willing to have the language of the resolution amended so as to meet the objections lodged against it. There is no question but that Russia has violated the treaty, and I have no reason for hesitating to make that declaration in the preamble of the resolution itself. But I have absolutely no objection to the language being amended, and I am merely providing for the termination of the convention. That, after all, is the real object of this action by Congress, and if being achieved, I am happy in the thought that the deed end has been attained and do not care anything at all about the verbiage of the resolution itself."

Malby Again Objects.

Mr. Sulzer's remarks were loudly applauded. Representative Malby, of New York, the only member of the body who on last Wednesday voted against the Sulzer resolution, opposed approval by the House of the Senate document. He expressed his conviction that the interests of American Hebrews would not be furthered by the action of this government in terminating the convention, and that if there was a really sincere desire on the part of Congress to meet the exigencies of the matter, that much more could be accomplished by terminating the treaty of 1832, dealing with extradition matters.

Berger's Question Unanswered.

"Does you really believe," said Mr. Berger, while Chairman Sulzer was making his argument for approval of the Senate resolution, "that the abrogation of this treaty will protect the rights of American citizens traveling in Russia?" We have much more to lose than Russia by the termination of this convention. While we are at it why not terminate the 1857 treaty, under which Russia obtains vastly more benefit than the United States."

Mr. Sulzer smiled tolerantly upon the Socialist member, but said nothing at all. He insisted on his argument in a moment or so and then yielded time to Representative Francis Burton Harrison, of New York. Mr. Berger remained on his feet looking somewhat bewildered, and finally he summoned up courage to address the Chair.

"Mr. Speaker," he cried indignantly, "the gentleman from New York has not answered my question."

"Well, he doesn't have to unless he feels like it," responded Speaker Clark, with a smile and a slam of his gavel. Mr. Berger sat down abruptly, amid laughter.

No Record Vote.

There was no record vote on the Senate resolution, which was passed without any opposition whatever. A good many members spoke briefly on the proposition. Representative Foster, of Vermont, ranking Republican member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, talked for five minutes in explanation of his attitude of opposition to the Sulzer resolution, passed last Wednesday, and of his favorable attitude to the Senate resolution, passed yesterday. He, in common with others, explained that he objected to the phraseology of the original Sulzer resolution.

"But you voted for that resolution in the Foreign Affairs Committee," Mr. Sulzer suggested, with a smile.

"I confess I did," Mr. Foster somewhat ruefully replied, "but I reserve the right to change my mind."

After the oratory had been concluded, the House voted on the Senate resolution, which was passed without any opposition whatever. A good many members spoke briefly on the proposition. Representative Foster, of Vermont, ranking Republican member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, talked for five minutes in explanation of his attitude of opposition to the Sulzer resolution, passed last Wednesday, and of his favorable attitude to the Senate resolution, passed yesterday. He, in common with others, explained that he objected to the phraseology of the original Sulzer resolution.

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Men's \$15.00 Overcoats at.....	\$9.75
Men's \$20.00 Overcoats at.....	\$12.50
Men's \$25.00 Overcoats at.....	\$15.00
Young Men's \$15.00 Overcoats at.....	\$8.75
Men's \$30.00 Overcoats at.....	\$18.50
Men's \$75.00 Fur-lined Overcoats.....	\$48.50
Men's \$50.00 Fur-lined Overcoats.....	\$30.00
Men's \$40.00 Fur-lined Overcoats.....	\$23.50
Men's \$30.00 Astrachan-lined Overcoats.....	\$19.50
Men's \$18.50 Black Beaver Collar and Cuffs.....	\$12.50
Men's \$30.00 Plush-lined Bearskin Collar and Cuffs.....	\$15.00
Men's \$10.00 Black Thibet Suits.....	\$5.50
Young Men's \$12.50 Worsteds Suits.....	\$8.75
Men's \$15.00 Worsteds and Cassimere Suits.....	\$8.00
Men's \$18.00 All-wool Worsteds Suits.....	\$9.98
Men's \$20.00 All-wool Worsteds Suits.....	\$12.00
Men's \$25.00 All-wool Worsteds Suits.....	\$14.75
Men's \$35.00 English Walking Suits.....	\$16.75

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